



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**For immediate release**  
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### ***Fuel Assistance available to needy families -- Application period for Fuel is Oct. 11 – Nov. 14 --***

**Richmond** – Applications for Fuel Assistance from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Energy Assistance Program will be accepted Tuesday, Oct. 11, through Monday, Nov. 14, at local departments of social services.

“Fuel Assistance is crucial in protecting our most vulnerable populations,” said VDSS Commissioner Anthony Conyers Jr. “We encourage the elderly, disabled and low-income to apply for this assistance to prepare for the winter months.”

Assistance is available to households who have a heat expense and meet income and other eligibility requirements. Fuel Assistance is a supplemental program intended to assist households primarily in meeting their home energy needs.

To qualify for Fuel Assistance, the maximum gross monthly income is \$1,037 for a household of one and \$2,097 for a family of four.

The Energy Assistance Program is funded by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. The Fuel Assistance component has been in existence since 1979 and each year serves approximately 100,000 households across the Commonwealth, while the Crisis component serves approximately 18,000 households. During the summer of 2005, the Cooling component served approximately 40,000 households in Virginia.

To learn more visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.html>. Families and individuals must apply at their local department of social services by Nov. 14.

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